

Malden Historic District  
(4401 Malden Drive)  
Malden  
Kanawha County  
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-210-22

HABS  
WVA,  
20-MALD,  
23-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Architectural and Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20243

HABS  
WVA,  
20-MALD,  
23-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MALDEN HISTORIC DISTRICT, 4401 Malden Drive HABS No. WV-210-22

Location: 4401 Malden Drive, Malden, Kanawha County, West Virginia  
(Within the boundaries of the Malden Historic District)

Present Owner: Frank D. Jones, Jr., 4302 Fallam Drive, Malden, West  
Virginia 25306.

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Most of the larger residences in Malden were built of  
brick. This house, built at an undetermined date between  
1882 and 1898, is unusual in that, although large, it is  
built of wood. It is also significant as being indicative  
of the shift of emphasis away from the river. Its major  
entrance still faces toward the river, but a second  
important entrance, slightly less ornamented, faces Malden  
Drive. The elongated plan, running across the lot instead  
of from front to rear, is unusual for Malden, but the  
accretive growth pattern evident from that elongation is  
typical. Although in ruinous condition, this house still  
makes a major contribution to the character of the historic  
district.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Unknown date between 1882 and 1898.
2. Architect: Unknown. Possibly the Jones Brothers, carpenters.  
George M. Jones was owner from 1900 to 1927.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The land on which the house  
stands was originally a part of the David Ruffner addition (being  
Lots 14 and 15 of the Putney Addition). On January 2, 1882, the  
then owner, Mary A. Walker, conveyed the property to John A.  
Martin for \$200.00, as recorded at the Kanawha County Courthouse  
in Deed Book 37 at page 106. From John A. Martin it was devised  
in 1898 to Amelia Martin (his wife), who sold it to George M.  
Jones on October 6, 1900, as recorded in Deed Book 81 at page 415.

George M. Jones conveyed the house and lot to Margaret A. Jones  
on June 1, 1927. On July 17, 1930, special commissioner, J. M.  
Woods, conveyed the house and lot to Nannie Jones, as recorded in  
Deed Book 359 at page 58. Nannie Jones died intestate on June 6,  
1973. Bettie Leigh Jones Brunt (an heir) and Albert E. Brunt,  
husband, conveyed said property to the present owner Frank D.  
Jones, Jr. on August 12, 1975, as recorded in Deed Book 1769 at  
page 412.

4. Alterations and additions: The structure remains virtually as it originally was, except that it has been abandoned since the death of Nannie Jones in 1973. Since that time it has deteriorated rapidly.
- B. Historical Context: This property, like many others in the area, was originally a part of the David Ruffner holdings. George M. Jones and his brother were reputed to be excellent carpenters and to have built several houses in the Malden area.

Prepared by Donna Sue White  
Historian  
Historic American Buildings Survey Team  
June 1979

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This large two-story gable-roofed accretive frame house is astylar and does not appear to reflect its late-19th-century date in any very obvious way.
2. Condition of Fabric: Ruinous.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This house is approximately 73'-4" in width and 40'-11" in overall depth.

The building is composed of a two-story rectangular main block to which a series of one story attachments join to form an ell-shaped plan.

2. Foundations: Foundations are of cut stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Walls are of wooden construction, the exterior surface being clapboard siding. Exterior walls are painted green, while shutters and most trim are painted white. At the porches, some trim is painted green.
4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: Two wooden one-story porches occur on the main block, one to the east and the other to the west. It has been suggested that the latter was originally the front entrance, though such is no longer the case. Both porches have decorative jig-sawn brackets, and one jig-sawn balustrade remains in place. A third porch-like shed occurs to the south of the one-story wing.

5. Chimneys: The house had three chimneys, but all three are now in various states of ruin. At the north end of the two-story block, a chimney is strongly expressed on the exterior wall. At the opposite end of this block, there appears to have been a second chimney not expressed on the exterior wall. Near the west wall of the one-story wing there is an interior chimney.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The west entrance of the two-story block is a single door flanked by double-hung sidelights having two vertical rows of panes approximately 3-1/2" square. The east entrance has a glazed door composed of eight lights edging a large central light. Doors on the one-story wing are of wooden panel construction.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Windows of the two-story block are of two types, six-over-nine double-hung wooden sash units on the lower floor and six-over-six units on the upper floor. The latter type also occurs on the one-story wing. Louvered wooden shutters occur at all windows.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: The roofs of the one-story and two-story blocks are simple gabled roofs covered by standing-seam metal roofing. This roofing is extremely rusty but appears to have been painted red. The one-story porches attached to the two-story block have hipped roofs, each one sloping in three directions from a point on the adjacent wall surface. The porch-like shed to the south of the one-story wing has a simple shed roof, also metal-covered.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: All roof edges project beyond their respective walls, creating eaves whose undersides are enclosed by a smooth soffit. Simple molded bands serve as fascia boards.
- C. Site:
  1. General setting: The house faces east onto Malden Drive at an oblique angle across a deep yard.
  2. Historic landscape design: It has been suggested that the main entrance was formerly on the west rather than on the east front. The oblique orientation relative to Malden Drive and the parallel orientation relative to Salines Drive would seem to support such an assertion.

Prepared by James Murray Howard  
Project Supervisor  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
July 1979

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deed Book, Kanawha County Courthouse Records.

Deed Book 37 at page 106

Deed Book 81 at page 415

Deed Book 359 at page 58

Deed Book 1769 at page 412

b. Interviews:

Mrs. Elsie Ferrell, 209 Commerce Drive, Malden, West Virginia. Life-long resident of Malden (77 years).

Miss L. S. Cole and Miss Martha Cole, 202 Georges Drive, Malden, West Virginia. Local historians of the Malden vicinity.

Mrs. N. B. (Virginia) Oakes, Fallam Drive, Malden, West Virginia. Life-long resident of Malden.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) with funding from the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. The recording was completed under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect of HABS, in the HABS field office in Charleston, West Virginia. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1979 by James Murray Howard (University of Illinois), Project Supervisor; Donna White, Project Historian; and Student Architects James Barrett Garrison (Carnegie-Mellon University) and Keith Edward Soto (University of Florida). The photographs were taken by Walter Smalling, Jr., Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Photographer.